

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants respectfully request entry of this after-final amendment because no new issues requiring further search or consideration are raised by the proposed amendment to Claim 1. More specifically, the proposed amendment to Claim 1 merely corrects for a possible antecedent basis problem by adding the word "voltage" to the term "low effective voltage area" in line 18 so that this term coincides with earlier appearances of this term (such as in lines 5, 8, 9-10, 15 and 16). As it is clear from the Examiner's comments in the August 1, 2007 Final Office Action that she understood the term at issue ("low effective area") to mean the same as the term "low effective voltage area" found in earlier portions of the claim, Applicants respectfully submit that this proposed amendment to Claim 1 does not raise any new issues. Accordingly, entry and consideration of this proposed amendment is respectfully requested.

As an additional preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claim 6 has been allowed.

Claims 1, 7-10, and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,644,415 to Aoki et al. in view of United States Patent No. 5,936,693 to Yoshida et al. and further in view of United States Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0058374 to Takeda et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the present invention. More specifically, neither the Aoki et al.

reference nor the Yoshida et al. reference nor the Takeda et al. reference discloses or suggests a liquid crystal display wherein, *inter alia*, "the low effective voltage area has an effective voltage decreasing slit, formed on at least one of the electrodes," as defined in independent Claim 1.

In the Office Action, the Examiner correctly acknowledged that the Aoki et al. reference fails to disclose that the low effective voltage area has an effective voltage decreasing slit. *See* August 1, 2007 Final Office Action, page 3 (line 20) through page 4 (line 3). Accordingly, the Examiner relied upon a combination of the Yoshida et al. reference and the Takeda et al. reference. More specifically, the Examiner asserted that the Yoshida et al. reference teaches that the effective voltage in the low effective voltage area associated with the blue color filter is lower than the effective voltages of the low effective voltage areas associated with the other color filters, and that the Takeda et al. reference taught the use of a slit in one of the electrodes for decreasing the effective voltage. *See* August 1, 2007 Final Office Action, page 4 (lines 4-22).

However, even assuming *arguendo* that one of ordinary skill in the art would have modified the device of Aoki et al. in light of the teachings of Yoshida et al., Applicants respectfully submit that the Takeda et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest the use of slits to decrease the effective voltage. In fact, as explained more fully below, in Takeda et al., the area of the electrode that includes the slit is actually the *high* threshold voltage region, which is exactly the opposite of the slit of Claim 1, which is an effective voltage *decreasing* slit for creating a *low* effective voltage area.

A review of paragraphs [00111] and [00112] and Figures 4A and 4B of Takeda et al. disclose a pixel electrode 5 that includes slits 21 that extend vertically, as shown in the view of Figure 4A. Upon the pixel electrode 5 there is a band shaped dielectric layer 22, which, as shown in the view of Figure 4A, extends horizontally. As can be seen in the sectional view of Figure 4B, the dielectric layer 22 extends downwardly into the slits 21, thereby increasing its thickness in the areas coincident with the slits 21. As described in lines 10-15 of paragraph [0112] of Takeda et al., the use of the dielectric layer 22 in combination with the slits 21 creates a *high* threshold voltage region 23, and the area without the dielectric layer 22 (or the slits 21) is the *low* threshold voltage region. Thus, in Takeda et al., the slits 21 are used in the *high* threshold voltage area to allow for increased thickness of dielectric layer 22, which is the opposite of the manner of the invention of Claim 1 in which the slits are used in the *low* effective voltage area for decreasing the effective voltage. Accordingly, as all of the features of independent Claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited references, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 7-10 and 12-14.

Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Aoki et al. in view of Yoshida et al. and Takeda et al. and further in view of United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0030780 to Nishida et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 2-5 all depend from independent Claim 1, and therefore include all of the features of Claim 1, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully

request that this §103 rejection of dependent Claims 2-5 be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claim 1 and also because the Nishida et al. reference does not remedy the deficiencies noted above.

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Aoki et al. in view of Yoshida et al. and Takeda et al. and further in view of United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0075436 to Kubo et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

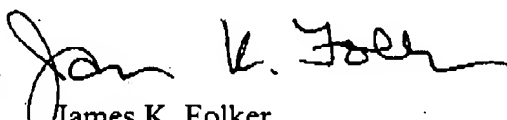
Claim 15 depends, indirectly, from independent Claim 1, and therefore includes all of the features of Claim 1, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this §103 rejection of dependent Claim 15 be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claim 1 and also because the Kubo et al. reference does not remedy the deficiencies noted above.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,  
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